

MISSISSIPPI RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION  
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Oysters and other shellfish are a treasured treat for millions of Americans in every state; and

WHEREAS, The American consumer has always enjoyed a fundamental choice between products of all types; and

WHEREAS, Personal responsibility and care for one's own health and well-being are commonly agreed upon tenets of American life; and

WHEREAS, Important emerging technologies are now making it possible for consumers of oysters and other shellfish products to choose between traditional raw shellfish products and "treated" or pasteurized shellfish products in a competitive free market environment, and

WHEREAS, It is widely accepted by all parties involved that "treated" oysters will both fundamentally change the condition of raw shellfish, and that such treatment raises the wholesale price of oysters from the current price of approximately eight cents apiece by another six to eight cents apiece, and

WHEREAS, It is reasonable to expect in a free market economy that these higher prices will then be passed along to the consumer, resulting in lower demand for oysters, and

WHEREAS, America's shellfish industry is heavily populated by small self-employed harvesters and leaseholders already operating on limited incomes, and

WHEREAS, Lower consumer demand could further threaten the small shellfish industry and the livelihoods of thousands of area residents and families who are dependant on oyster harvesting and processing for their own well-being, and

WHEREAS, The U.S Food and Drug Administration has been asked to consider new rules which would force costly and unnecessary post-harvest treatment of oysters, placing product from our area at a severe competitive disadvantage on the open market against product from other regions which will not be required to be treated in the same expensive manner, and

WHEREAS, America's oyster and shellfish industry has worked cooperatively and with great success to educate consumers with certain health conditions and risks which may be affected by certain types of shellfish, and

WHEREAS, These education efforts have been highly successful in reducing health impacts when they have been allowed to fully flourish, and

Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, our Congressional delegation, the Governor and other state elected officials, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mississippi Restaurant Association does hereby encourage the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to reject these costly and unnecessary rules and regulations in favor of continuing its successful work with America's shellfish industry toward greater consumer education and awareness, and toward the continuation of a competitive market economy system which has served America's consumers well since the founding of our nation.

This 15th day of April, 1999



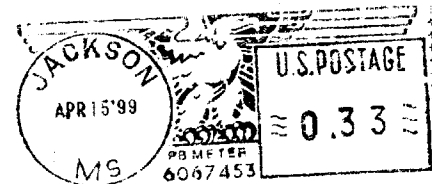
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